

# 100 Years Ago Women's Rights Crusade Had Stormy Beginning

By Marguerite Wright  
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It's been a hundred years since a group of angry women, meeting at Seneca Falls, N.Y., declared themselves equal to men and set about to secure their rights. Elizabeth Cady Stanton wrote the women's manifesto and organized the first women's rights convention, but she was only one of the many feminists who spearheaded the movement that is largely responsible for the status of women today.

Mary Wollstonecraft, Lucretia Mott, Susan B. Anthony, Lucy Stone, Julia Ward Howe and Emmeline Pankhurst were among the militant leaders who spread the untenable doctrine that "a woman is just like a man."

## Resented Status

Partly to revenge "woman's complete historical subjugation to men" and partly because they wanted everything men had, the convention demanded the right to vote, to hold property, to get higher education, to work for equal pay. They resented their legal status of minor children and their common status as chattel. Particularly, they were concerned about the "double standard" in morals. Mrs. Stanton believed that marriage "degraded women," most of her sisters-in-arms took a dim view of childbearing and their regard for most men was rather low. Yet in every way they wished to emulate men.

These feminists were characterized by belligerence rather than logic. They did not concede that some respected men—like Socrates and Plato, Martin Luther and Abraham Lincoln—had advocated women's suffrage. Nor did they credit their feminine forbears in the ancient civilizations and in many countries in Europe whose civil rights had been, at times, as broad as those of their men.

## Already Active

The leisure-class women of Mrs. Stanton's time were already engaged in many movements; they opposed child-labor, worked at rehabilitating "fallen women," campaigned against Demon Rum, and became ardent abolitionists. The women's rights movement was just part of the fermenting spirit of the day, and the ladies entered

the fray with vigor. Destruction of property and rioting were their weapons; they fired public buildings, wrecked saloons and stormed state legislatures in an orgy of behaving just like they thought men would. Their program, they zealously believed, was the broad highway to paradise.

Well, they won. During the past century they have won their claims to enter politics, to be legally recognized as individuals, to enter almost any educational institution and almost any profession once restricted to men; they have all but eliminated the double standard; they can marry or not, have children or not—just as they choose; they have more freedom from household drudgery and more economic security than ever. But, evidently, still no paradise.

And it is not because they have not won complete freedom from prejudice or equal pay for equal work.

## Reaction Noted

There are some reactionaries who would push women back into the status they had before July, 1848. There are other, more reasonable critics who say the right to vote, to hold property, to work and to learn are all very fine; civil rights should not be restricted by sex or race or creed. But modern women's needs now are psychic, they say.

The anthropologist Margaret Mead, Helene Deutsch in "The Psychology of Women" and Lundberg and Farnham in "Modern Woman—The Lost Sex" are concerned with that thesis. In her futile attempt to be a man, has the contemporary female forgotten how to be a woman?—and is she glad of it? That seems to

be the trouble today, they say, and so there is a movement afoot that would have been anathema to Elizabeth Stanton.

The new trend is evident in the rising birth rate. It is further substantiated by the fact that the leading women's colleges and some state universities are promoting marriage and homemaking as suitable careers for their coed graduates. The college women are still urged to work for better government, better schools, better medical care and other social reforms, but they are informed that the country still needs its happy homes and well-adjusted new generations.

## Trend Publicized

Women's magazines echo that policy, and when they suggest professional careers for women they do not neglect to propose that working wives devote part of their lives to the domestic pursuits. Advertisements and new commodities show an increased interest in homelife. Men's publications are promoting the trend. The movement, now gaining momentum after the enforced masculinization of women during the war, is even expressed in the fashion industry—the "new look" that makes women look like women.

Although it is too early to tell, it looks as though a hundred years after the Seneca Falls declaration of women's rights, women, with their rights secure, are reevaluating their victory and redefining feminism. Perhaps in the future a feminist will no longer paradoxically mean a woman who tries to emancipate herself from the limitations and responsibilities of her sex.

## COLORADANS at LINCOLN

LINCOLN — Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Elliott of Colorado were recent guests at the home of Mrs. J. D. Walling at Lincoln, an old family friend of the Elliots. The Elliots were here last 10 years ago. Jess Elliott resided on what is now the Byers farm.

## Guests Visit Idanha Homes

IDANHA — Weekend guests at the P. W. Willis home were Mr. and Mrs. Vaughn Smith and daughter Meredith and Mr. and Mrs. Walter Smith of Willamina and Betty Jane Smith of Salem.

Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Allen returned to Idanha Saturday to get their household goods. They have been employed elsewhere for some time.

Mr. and Mrs. Glen Willis made a trip to Willamina Friday evening, bringing their piano home with them Saturday. While there they visited at the home of Mrs. Willis' parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Morgan.

Freddie Wiley of Portland has been visiting his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Anderson.

## Jefferson WSCS Is Entertained at Cochran Residence

JEFFERSON — Mrs. C. M. Cochran was hostess to members of the Methodist Women's Society of Christian Service on Wednesday afternoon.

Taking part in the program were the president, Mrs. J. G. Fontaine, and Addie Libby. Mrs. Leland Pittam assisted her mother in serving refreshments at the tea hour.

Present were Mrs. G. C. Mason, Mrs. A. B. Hinz, Mrs. Helen Caywood and son, Mrs. Earl Lynes, Mrs. Earl Phelps, Mrs. Mary Powell, Mrs. W. F. Gulvin, Mrs. Nellie Cornell, Mrs. Fontaine, Miss Libby, Mrs. Cochran and Mrs. Pittam. Returning Wednesday from a week at Diamond lake were Mr. and Mrs. Paul McKee and Mr. and Mrs. Les Shields, bringing home a limit catch of trout.

Mrs. Louise Johnston and son Wayne of Sidney attended the Salem FFA chapter picnic Sunday at Dallas city park. Sunday evening guests at the Johnston home were her brother, George Ralle, Mrs. Ralle and children.

William McKinney, agriculture teacher in Salem high school, was a Saturday visitor of Wayne John-

ston at Sidney. Wayne, to be a junior in Salem high next fall, is prominent in 4-H and FFA work.

GUESTS ENTERTAINED  
AUBURN — Mrs. Jack Becker entertained several Monroe ave-

nue women at her home Wednesday afternoon, including Mrs. Warren Shrike and her guest, Mrs. Nettie Shrike; Mrs. Stewart Johns, Mrs. Arlo McClain, Mrs. Doren Richey, Mrs. Wilfred Miller.

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